

Appln No. 09/973,303

Amdt date July 23, 2004

Reply to Office action of April 26, 2004

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A system for controlling product items with shelf-life limitations comprising:

means for determining shelf-life limitation information for each of one or more product items;

means for recording said shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items;

means for reading said recorded shelf-life limitation information for ~~each of said one or more~~ a product items item selected for purchase;

an electronic receipt ~~means for electronically recording said storing the read~~ shelf-life limitation information for ~~each of said one or more~~ the selected product ~~items in an electronic receipt~~ item, the electronic receipt being provided to a purchaser of the product item;

means for retrieving the shelf-life limitation information from the electronic receipt; and

a processor coupled to the means for retrieving, the processor adding the retrieved shelf-life limitation information to an inventory list of products purchased by ~~a user~~ the purchaser, the processor further detecting an expired product

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based on the shelf-life limitation information, and removing the expired product from the inventory list.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising:  
means for storing said communicated electronic shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items in a memory accessible by said microprocessor.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3, further comprising:  
means for formatting for an on-screen display said stored electronic shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4, further comprising:  
means for displaying as an on-screen display said formatted electronic shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items.

6. (Original) The system of claim 5, further comprising:  
means for the purchaser to interact with said onscreen display of said formatted electronic shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items to identify new product items.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6, further comprising:  
means for said purchaser to interact with said on-screen display of said formatted electronic shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items to identify deleted product items.

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8. (Original) The system of claim 7, further comprising:  
means for said purchaser to interact with said on-screen display of said formatted electronic shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items to identify opened product items.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 where the means for reading said recorded shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items further comprises;

means for converting said read shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items to an electronically readable and storable form.

10-33. (Cancelled)

34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the shelf-life limitation information includes a period for which the product remains viable.

35. (Currently Amended) A system for controlling product items with shelf-life limitations comprising:

a data store storing shelf-life limitation information for a product item;

a scanner scanning a product indicia associated with the product item;

a first terminal coupled to the scanner, the first terminal receiving the scanned product indicia and searching the data store for the associated shelf-life limitation information, the first terminal further ~~electronically recording~~ generating an

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electronic receipt electronically storing the associated shelf-life limitation information in an electronic receipt for the product item, the electronic receipt being provided to a purchaser of the product item;

means for retrieving the shelf life limitation information from the electronic receipt; and

a processor coupled to the means for retrieving, the processor adding the retrieved shelf-life limitation information to an inventory list of products purchased by ~~a purchaser~~ the purchaser, the processor further detecting an expired product based on the shelf-life limitation information, and removing the expired product from the inventory list.

36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 35, wherein the first terminal is configured to store the shelf-life limitation information in an IC card accessible to the purchaser of the product item.

37. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 35, wherein the first terminal stores the shelf-life limitation information in a store server.

38. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 35, wherein the shelf-life limitation information includes a period for which the product remains viable.

39. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the electronic receipt is stored in an IC card.

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40. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the electronic receipt is stored in a central server.